

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02384 180948Z

15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 063231

O 180940Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9057
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 2384

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-2
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, LE
SUBJ: BOUTROS DIB CANDIDACY FOR LEBANESE PRESIDENCY

REF:ROME 4357

1. AS HE WAS TOP ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE BEFORE HE WENT TO ROME, DIB'S CANDIDACY WOULD INEVITABLY SUFFER SOMEWHAT FROM CIRCUMSTANCES OF FRANGIE'S DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE. HOWEVER, DIB HAS OLD CHEHABIST CONNECTIONS AND HAS BEEN FAR FROM FRANGIE FOR SOME TIME SO THAT FACTOR MIGHT NOT BE CONTROLLING. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO KNOW WHAT HIS CHANCES WOULD BE IN A FIELD OF QUITE A FEW DARK HORSES SHOULD FRONT RUNNERS FOR PRESIDENCY REACH STALEMATE.

2. RECOMMEND ROME BE INSTRUCTED NEITHER TO ENCOURAGE NOR TO DISCOURAGE DIB. HE SHOULD BE TOLD WE HAVE NO PREFERRED CANDIDATE. FRANKLY, HE WAS VERY HELPFUL TO THE EMBASSY WHILE ASSISTANT TO FRANGIE AND SHOULD POSE NO DIFFICULTIES TO US IF HE WERE ELECTED BUT HE HAS BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR SOME TIME AND IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE HIS GETTING SELECTED.

3. WE HAVE ADDED ROME AS INFO ADDRESSEE TO SEPTTEL DISCUSING VARIOUS CANDIDATES. WOULD APPRECIATE ROME KEEPING MOST OF THAT INFO FOR ITSELF, SINCE I DO NOT
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THINK ANY CANDIDATE OR POTENTIAL CANDIDATE SHOULD BE

OUR CONFIDANT FOR SUCH INFORMATION.

LAMBRAKIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: vogelfj
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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